

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 17 March 1994

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statistics

Unemployment trend continues to fall

The provisional trend estimate of unemployment fell for the fifth successive month in February after increasing between June 1993 and September 1993. The trend estimate of employment continues to increase and now stands at 7 821 500, or 2.7 per cent higher than the January 1993 low point. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate was 10.5 per cent, the lowest since February 1992, while the trend participation rate was 63.0 per cent, unchanged from December 1993.

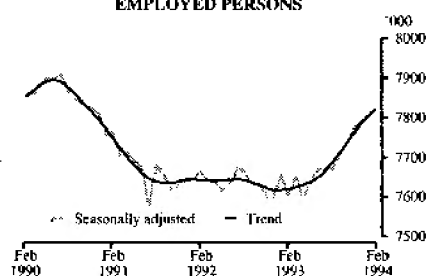
Employment

The February 1994 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7 819 700, an increase of 14 400 since January 1994. Full-time employment rose by 39 700 to 5 960 300, primarily due to an increase of 38 700 in the number of females employed full time, which now stands at 1 947 800. Male full-time employment was relatively steady at 4 012 500. Part-time employment fell by 25 300 to 1 859 400, with falls of 9 400 and 15 900 respectively for males and females.

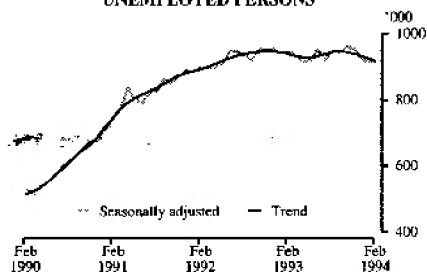
Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons in February 1994 fell slightly to 913 900, the lowest level since May 1992. The number of unemployed persons seeking full-time work rose to 761 400 with a rise of 6 300 in the number of unemployed males seeking full-time work.

EMPLOYED PERSONS



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES

Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unem- ployment rate	Partici- pation rate
	Full-time	Part-time	Total			
	workers	workers				
	— '000 —					
1993						
August	5 863.4	1 804.9	7 668.2	952.4	11.0	62.5
September	5 869.7	1 836.8	7 706.5	941.1	10.9	62.6
October	5 902.4	1 830.5	7 733.0	964.4	11.1	62.9
November	5 924.2	1 847.1	7 771.3	957.7	11.0	63.1
December	5 941.5	1 850.5	7 792.0	921.5	10.6	62.9
1994						
January	5 920.5	1 884.7	7 805.3	917.7	10.5	62.9
February	5 960.3	1 859.4	7 819.7	913.9	10.5	62.9

Unemployment rate

In February 1994, the seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate was 10.5 per cent, unchanged from January 1994. The unemployment rate for males rose slightly to 10.9 per cent, while for females the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 9.9 per cent.

Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate in February 1994 was 62.9 per cent, unchanged since December 1993. The participation rate for males fell slightly to 73.7 per cent, while for females it rose by 0.2 percentage points to 52.5 per cent.

For further information order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0) or contact Sylvia Sajler on (06) 252 6525.

Wool receivals below last year

Although the trend estimate of taxable wool received by brokers and dealers has shown an upward trend since October 1993 (see chart at left), the total receivals in 1993-94 is below the level at the same time in 1992-93.

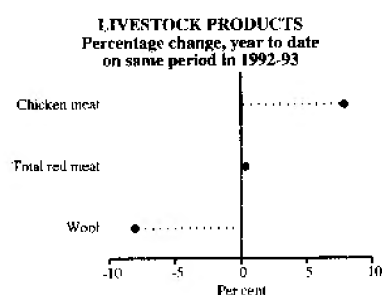
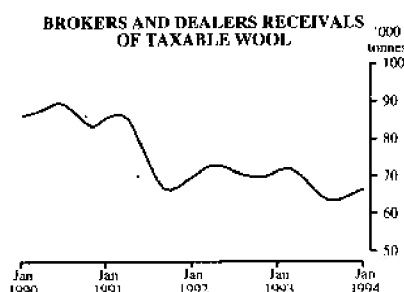
In original terms, brokers and dealers received 550 220 tonnes of taxable wool in the seven months to January 1994, a fall of 8.2 per cent from the same period one year earlier.

In other news from the latest *Livestock Products* monthly publication, the trend estimate for red meat production rose by 0.8 per cent in January, its second consecutive monthly rise.

Total red meat production in the seven months to January was just 0.4 per cent above the same period a year earlier, at 1.63 million tonnes carcass weight. Production of veal (up 7.4%), mutton (up 9.9%) and pigmeat (up 4.4%) all recorded rises in the seven-month comparison, while there was a 0.8 per cent fall in beef production and a 10.0 per cent fall in lamb production.

In the five months to November 1993, Australia exported 2.13 million live sheep, with a gross value of \$41.6 million. While the number of sheep was up slightly on the same five months in 1992, the value of these exports was down by about \$2.4 million.

Meanwhile chicken meat production continues a strong upward trend which has been unbroken since April 1992.



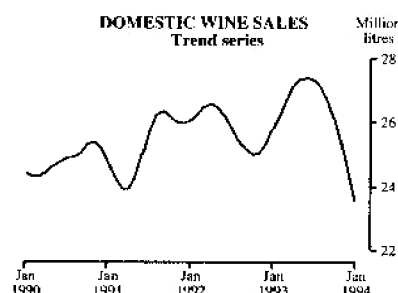
CHICKEN MEAT PRODUCED

Thousand tonnes carcass weight

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Aust.
1990-91	160.3	100.5	62.0	31.9	33.4	388.2
1991-92	171.5	107.0	64.1	37.0	36.0	415.6
1992-93	176.5	114.6	67.3	38.6	37.7	434.7

Exports push wine sales up in 1993

Total sales (domestic plus exports) of Australian wine for 1993 were 444.4 million litres, 11.8 per cent higher than for 1992. Domestic sales, which accounted for 72.0 per cent of all wine sales in 1993, rose by 3.3 per cent to 319.6 million litres. Exports of Australian wine in 1993 were 124.8 million litres worth \$357.1 million, up on 1992 by 42 per cent in terms of volume and 36.5 per cent in terms of value.



Domestic sales of Australian wine by winemakers for January 1994, in seasonally adjusted terms, were 20.4 million litres, 22.2 per cent down on sales in January 1993. This is the lowest monthly seasonally adjusted estimate of domestic wine sales since January 1981. As a result of this large fall, the provisional trend estimate in domestic wine sales fell for the seventh consecutive month. The trend decline, which had shown signs of easing in the last couple of months, is now strengthening. Using original data, there were 13.5 million litres of Australian wine sold domestically in January 1994, down 63.6 per cent on the traditional high sales in December.

Export sales in December 1993 were 8.3 million litres of wine valued at \$23.0 million. This is a similar result to November 1993 but up on December 1992 by 63.0 per cent in terms of volume and 76.3 per cent in terms of value.

DOMESTIC WINE SALES
('000 litres)

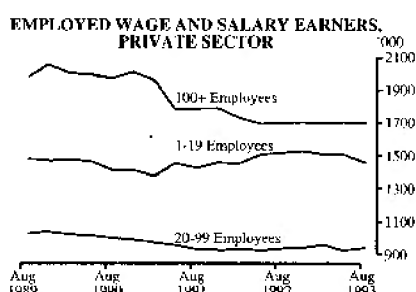
Wine type	Seven months ended January		Percentage change
	1993	1994	
Table			
White — bottles 1 litre and under	26 833	29 096	8.4
White — other containers	85 526	86 397	1.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>112 359</i>	<i>115 493</i>	<i>2.8</i>
Red — bottles 1 litre and under	15 237	16 327	7.2
Red — other containers	17 780	18 500	4.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>33 017</i>	<i>34 827</i>	<i>5.5</i>
Rose — bottles 1 litre and under	398	365	-8.3
Rose — other containers	2 630	2 576	-2.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>3 028</i>	<i>2 941</i>	<i>-2.9</i>
<i>Total table wine</i>	<i>148 404</i>	<i>153 261</i>	<i>3.3</i>
Fortified	16 989	15 688	-7.7
Sparkling			
Bottle fermented	17 898	18 993	6.1
Bulk fermented	3 125	2 771	-11.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>21 023</i>	<i>21 764</i>	<i>3.5</i>
Other	4 852	4 535	-6.5
<i>Total wine sales</i>	<i>191 268</i>	<i>195 248</i>	<i>2.1</i>

Small businesses hold the line on employment

Over the four year period to August 1993, the number of employed wage and salary earners in businesses with 1-19 employees has remained relatively constant, while employment in the larger business categories have fallen.

Between August 1989 and August 1993, total employment in the private sector dropped from 4 481 400 to 4 093 900, a fall of 8.6 per cent. Over this period employment in the 1-19 size range has dropped 1.6 per cent (23 600). In contrast, employment fell by 14.2 per cent (280 200) in businesses with employment of 100 or more and by 8.6 per cent (88 800) in businesses employing 20-99 persons.

On a State basis Western Australia (22.5%) has shown the greatest growth in businesses with less than 19 employees closely followed by the Australian Capital Territory (17.2%) while South Australia has shown negative growth of -12.7 per cent followed by the Northern Territory (-12.6%) and Victoria (-10.4%).



EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, PRIVATE SECTOR
Employer Unit Size 1-19 Persons
(⁰⁰⁰)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Aug 89	510.4	400.4	251.7	123.3	118.3	38.6	16.7	20.9	1 480.3
Aug 90	489.5	381.8	239.6	120.5	110.5	36.7	15.0	22.9	1 416.7
Aug 91	484.1	383.9	242.2	119.6	120.8	38.8	14.5	22.8	1 427.1
Aug 92	533.6	404.8	251.4	113.5	132.8	40.4	14.3	28.6	1 519.4
Aug 93	511.2	358.9	252.9	107.7	144.9	41.9	14.6	24.5	1 456.7

For further information, order the publication *Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0), or contact Errol Preston on (06) 252 6511.

Finance in brief ...

Personal finance

The provisional trend estimate for personal finance commitments for January 1994 was \$2 358.6 million, an increase of \$118.8 million (5.3%) on December 1993 and an increase of \$693.9 million (41.7%) on January 1993.

The trend estimates for fixed loan facilities increased by \$52.9 million (3.8%) and commitments under revolving credit facilities increased by \$66.0 million (7.6%) on December 1993.

Commercial finance

The provisional trend estimate for commercial finance commitments for January 1994 was \$7 570.3 million, a decrease of \$54.5 million (0.7%) on December 1993 but an increase of \$1 266.4 million (20.1%) on January 1993.

The January 1994 trend estimate for commitments under fixed loan facilities increased by \$1.0 million (0.1%). However, the trend estimate for commitments under revolving credit facilities decreased by \$55.5 million (1.4%).

Lease finance

The provisional trend estimate for lease finance commitments for January 1994 was \$473.5 million, an increase of \$3.3 million (0.7%) on December 1993 and an increase of \$87.8 million (22.8%) on January 1993.

These series are available on subscription to a special data service. For further information, contact Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7117.

Trend strengthens in new car registrations

Final figures for January 1994 show a stronger trend is emerging for total new motor vehicle registrations, with steady monthly rises since September 1993. With the exception of a small fall in August, passenger vehicle registrations have been increasing steadily since March 1993. Other vehicles have been following this trend since October 1993, reversing the consecutive falls in the previous three months.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the 6.3 per cent rise in total registrations over December 1993 was due to an 8.7 per cent rise in passenger vehicle registrations more than offsetting a 4.8 per cent fall in other vehicle registrations.

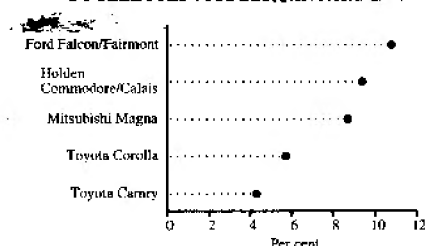
Unadjusted total motor vehicle registrations for January 1994 fell from 48 536 in December 1993 to 36 662. All vehicle types fell from their previous month's total. Of these registrations, passenger vehicles fell from the December 1993 total of 40 746, to 30 967 (or 24.0%). Other vehicles fell from 7 790 to 5 695 (or 26.9%) and motorcycles from 1 543 to 1 481 (or 4.0%).

Of the top 5 models for January 1994, Ford Falcon/Fairmont recorded 10.8 per cent of all passenger vehicles registered and led all models with 3 337 registrations. Holden Commodore/Calais recorded 2 911 registrations (or 9.4%), Mitsubishi Magna, 2 687 (or 8.7%), Toyota Corolla 1 771 (or 5.7%) and Toyota Camry 1 333 (or 4.3%).

The top five makes of all light commercial registrations for January 1994 were Toyota with 1 592 registrations, or 34 per cent, Ford 812 (or 17.3%); Holden 730 (or 15.6%); Mitsubishi 635 (or 13.6%) and Nissan 431 (or 9.2%).

For further information order the publication Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia (9303.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

NEW PASSENGER VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
BY SELECTED MODELS, JANUARY 1994



Inquiries

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Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 29 March

- 16** Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, December Quarter 1993 (5206.0; \$26.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six Capital Cities and Canberra, January 1994 (6407.0; \$11.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, January 1994 (6408.0; \$8.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, January 1994 (6412.0; \$11.00)
Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia, December Quarter 1993 (8125.0; \$11.00)
Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, December Quarter 1993, Preliminary (8750.0; \$11.00)
- 17** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, January 1994 (5609.0; \$11.00)
- 18** Export Price Index, Australia, January 1994 (6405.0; \$8.50)
- 22** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, January 1994 (6411.0; \$11.00)
Import Price Index, Australia, January 1994 (6414.0; \$8.50)
- 23** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, February 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; \$12.00)
- 25** Manufacturing Production Australia, February 1994, Preliminary (8301.0; \$11.00)

Selected releases: 9 to 15 March

General

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 1994 (replacement pages) (1216.0; free)

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

Balance of Payments, Aust., December Qtr 1993 (5302.0; \$21.50)

Labour statistics and Prices

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., January 1994 (6312.0; \$13.00)

Agriculture

Information Paper: AgStats, Aust., 1992-93 (7107.0; free over the counter)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and construction

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, November 1993 (8741.1; \$11.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, December 1993 (8741.1; \$11.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, December 1993 (8741.3; \$11.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., December 1993 (8741.6; \$7.00)

Tourist Accommodation, NT, December Qtr 1993 (8635.7; \$15.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, W 303.5; \$)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices (d)	Sept. qtr 93	\$m	95 378	96 256	0.4	3.4
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	January 94	\$m	-1 395	-1 265	21	-63
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-33	152	—	62
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-60	-10	98	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	4 761	5 322	4	5
Merchandise imports	"	"	-4 794	-5 170	-5	11
Net foreign debt	December qtr 93	\$m	171 980	n.a.	-1.3	5.2
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	244 540	n.a.	3.7	16.9
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	January 94	\$m	8 015	8 463	1.5	4.9
New capital expenditure at current prices	December qtr 93	"	7 209	6 695	3.2	-2.5
New motor vehicle registrations	January 94	no.	36 662	48 762	6.3	9.0
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	December qtr 93	\$m	38 567	36 863	3.1	9.4
Dwelling unit approvals	January 94	no.	12 774	16 166	6.1	8.4
Building approvals	January 94	\$m	1 805	2 015	10.6	-10.7
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	September qtr 93	"	6 433	6 268	3.1	5.0
Prices						
Consumer price index	December qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	110.0	n.a.	0.2	1.9
Articles produced by manufacturing industry (d)	December 93	1988 89 = 100.0	115.4	n.a.	0.3	1.1
Materials used in manufacturing industries	December 93	1984-85 = 100.0	124.0	n.a.	-1.6	-2.4
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	February 94	'000	7 752.1	7 819.7	0.2	2.9
Participation rate †	"	%	63.1	62.9	0.0	0.6
Unemployment rate †	"	"	11.5	10.5	-0.1	-0.6
Job vacancies	November qtr 93	'000	38.2	38.9	5.1	31.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.30	1.22	1.7	8.0
Estimated resident population	September qtr 93	million	17.7	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	December 93	'000	345	253	-2.5	12.5
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	December qtr 93	\$m	6 618	5 255	2.5	33.5
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	November 93	\$	604.20	603.40	-0.3	3.0
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	January 94	% per annum	4.80	n.a.	-0.05	-1.05
10-year Treasury bonds †	January 94	"	6.35	n.a.	0.35	-2.25
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	January 94	per \$A	0.6956	n.a.	3	3

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 16 March 1994.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year								
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	September qtr 93	-8.1	25.5	-4.0	27.3	16.9	7.5	n.a.	n.a.	6.9
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	January 94	4.5	3.3	5.2	7.1	10.5	3.8	n.a.	7.4	5.0
New motor vehicle registrations†	January 94	13.0	10.5	6.8	-3.5	3.1	2.8	-3.9	34.3	9.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	January 94	-1.3	3.3	16.2	-15.3	-1.5	11.7	153.3	158.5	8.4
Value of total building work done	September qtr 93	0.4	4.1	9.2	10.3	20.9	13.3	1.1	-6.9	5.6
Employed persons*	February 94	3.2	1.4	4.2	-0.4	5.8	3.6	-1.9	2.3	2.9
Capital city consumer price index	December qtr 93	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	November 93	2.5	2.2	5.0	2.5	3.3	4.2	0.5	3.7	3.0
Population	September qtr 93	0.9	0.3	2.8	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.0
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	September qtr 93	6.3	0.1	9.1	2.4	9.0	5.4	18.4	12.0	6.7

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

